

REVIEWS.

The *Medical Reports* published by order of the Inspector General of the Chinese Customs for the half year ending 30th September, 1896, have just reached us. This extremely useful publication, which is now in its 27th year, is of great value to the medical profession, and is in parts interesting to the general public. It is the only official record containing technical notes on local peculiarities of disease, and on diseases rarely or never found except in China; special treatment tested by experience, climatic and seasonal considerations, and other important data. The present issue deals with the districts controlled by Newchwang, Cheungchow, Chaochow, Hankow, Woyu, Wanchow, and Lungchow. In the report from the first-named port there is an incident which, although in itself, is of little significance. A Chinaman, who had made a most determined attempt to cut his throat, was healed after much trouble. Dr. Daly says:—

In accounting for the wild and blood-curdling legends about the doings of foreign surgeons and others, which are so prevalent amongst the natives, it may be of interest to add that this youth, in order to save his "face" in regard to the mutilation of his body by his own hands, gave the following explanation of the occurrence to the compradore and other natives: "When I arrived in Newchwang I was very ill, and the captain sent me to the foreign doctor, who was unable to cure me, and consequently he (the foreign doctor) cut my throat in order to let out the hot air."

Byways, by Robert Hichens (London, Methuen and Company, Hongkong, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Limited).—This is a collection of small stories, eight or ten in number, all gruesome and depressing. Each tale has as central figure somebody afflicted with a morbid introspectiveness and an unhealthy taste for brooding, and starting into a metaphorical mirror. In fact this characteristic mood, in ordinary life, is called morose, and is not at all pleasant. However, there are such people, and to that extent the book is true to life. The first story, "The Charming of Snakes," deals with a wayward woman with mysterious moods and fantastic fancies. Personally, we have no patience with people of that sort, but that is only our own peculiarity. Many people have different tastes. This fanciful female marries a man purely as a whim. There is no feeling on either side, nor is there what may often prove a satisfactory substitute for feeling, namely, practical common sense or business astuteness. In fact they are a couple of fools who are themselves completely alone in a sea of eccentricities. They go for their honeymoon into the wilds of a Moroccan desert, where they camp out in tents, and their sanitary arrangements are presumably primitive. Incidentally, novel-writers very often depict situations in which sanitary questions would intrude unpleasantly if the scenes were real. Here, then, in the desert, the two idiots brood and moon about aimlessly, and Mr. Hichens is careful to emphasize and reiterate the fact that they slept in a paravane tent—which is rather an unnecessary detail, as in detail the tent is hardly needed under the spell of a Moroccan snake-charmer's music, and after a good deal of uninteresting ravings she disappeared with the coloured person into the desert and is never heard of again. There is no mention of any difficulty about language; it has not been specified that she could speak Moroccan or that the snake-charmer knew English. The story is in the first place impossible, in the second place unwholesome, and in the third place—perhaps the most or, if important point—uninteresting. To come, however, to the attractive matter, namely, to those who like Sir Edward Arnold and his school, see everything uncoloured and uncoloured through rose-tinted glasses. As the polygamy and prostitution pervading Japanese domestic life have been hallowed and glorified by poetic license, so the nameless horrors of barbaric life in Morocco are glossed over and idealized in this book. We dislike to see a theatrical tint put on the dirty and depraved manners and customs of crude civilisations; we have no special liking for the average who, in the midst of the level of time breeding cattle, as in *Angels*, but we have a dislike for the glorification of such savages. The grammar of the book is not beyond reproach. Here is a quotation:—"The dancing Mithras-like caught Roshaw's attention, and, for the moment, he forgot to look at the miracle man. A general outcry from the multitude made him turn his head." Whose head? Roshaw's or Mithras's? or the miracle man's? Here is another quotation:—"Scarcely had my dried away than I knew," which is a dreadful solecism.

The next story, "A Tribute of Sense," is simply a fit of hysteria. For those who like hysteria, this is the sort of thing they would like to see those who don't like it. We failed to see why the writer should say "cheer" instead of saying "puny." Little things like this irritate us—because, to be perfectly candid, we did not know that *cheer* meant puny until we turned up the dictionary, and we hate reading novels by dictionaries. The person in the story did not work for a living, did not justify his existence and did not have sufficient resources to keep himself occupied. I went forth alone, I took Goshaw's *Pen*, and my own compassing spirit, and went into the mist with my misty, clouded mind. We could suggest to the gentleman that there is a healthy recreation known as sawing wood, and it is points ahead of going out alone into the mist with a misty, clouded mind. Incidentally he went there through "the creaking from gateway." We thought it was the gate that creaked. It rather reminds us of the bigger mistake of the "I hear" "I hear." This is the sort of thing that fills the book. "Had it been I might never have anticipated, and I must not anticipate." It is a little bit of a puzzle. "This incident is to be in hell. I was in hell that autumn day." Better have stayed there. "I devoted Goshaw, Doctor Wedderburn, every man highly placed, every lowly peasant, who could do even one of all the things I could not do, to damnation." Every body who reads the book can return the compliment cordially. This hysterical story-teller dabbles in what he calls hysteria; but it is not at all, for it comprehends good spirit and bad spirit, devil and angel, heaven and hell, and is allowed to develop from any guidance. So the book says, and so it does. Every other sentence contains a remark which would bear the same affinity to an epigram that a "busted flask" is to the right thing—mixed only by one point, but a disastrous misfit and the loss.

We have received Cassell and Co.'s monthly budget of magazines which are always highly appreciated and essentially of a popular character.

for. The *Observer* has many readers in the East and is not in need of any eulogy as a high class family magazine. There is an excellent article on Hospitals by the Duke of Devonshire, several well written short stories, besides serials, and interesting notes on various subjects, as also a new hymn tune by Rev. W. J. Foxell. *Work* is a publication that has not a very large scope in the East, because there are very few residents out here who care to take up as a hobby any of the pastimes which owe so much to this magazine and, on the other hand, the number of people who follow such occupations for a living and can read English is even more limited. However, it is an excellent magazine and those who do take an interest in such things always welcome *Work*. *Cassell's Saturday Journal* is, as frequently remarked, one of the very best and cheapest publications for the general reader. The quality of matter to be found in its pages is no great as to be fully described. Once in a while there are items of an Eastern nature, inviting criticism, such as the reference in the present issue to "the oldest newspaper in the world, published at Peking," meaning thereby the *Palace Bulletin*, frequently misnamed *The Peking Gazette*, which is not a newspaper. However there are many trifles and on the whole the *Saturday Journal* is sound and reliable, being interesting to all classes of readers.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

(Before His Lordship, the Chief Justice, Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., and Comdr Hastings, R.N., Naval Officer, Assessor.)

Wednesday, March 2nd.

MAK LOK v. S. S. "HATMAN."

This was a claim for \$980.85 as compensation for the loss of a junk owned by plaintiff and sunk after a collision with the *Hatman*. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (assisted by Mr. C. Evans) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. W. H. Slade (assisted by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the defence. Mr. Francis, in opening, said the collision took place somewhere in the China Sea between here and Swatow on August 19th, 1897. He then read the preliminary questions and answers which the jury had returned. The *Hatman* was the master of the steamship, Mak Lok was the owner of the junk but was not present, and Mak Tung Lun was the look-out man in charge of the junk at the time of the collision, about 9 p.m. The defence stated that the time was about 11 p.m. It was practically immaterial at what hour it took place, but, presumably, of course, the steamer's time would be the more correct. There was a difference of about 15 miles between the two statements as to locality, but the steamer was practically immaterial. The steamer was going north and passing between Pedro Blanco and the coast and the junk was coming from the south. The collision was taking place inside Pedro Blanco. The probabilities were that the junk was not keeping a record of time or position when navigating. The junk master said that the wind was light N.E. and the steamer's people said it was easterly with a force of 4. The junk people said that the night was clear and fine, starlight, and that on the steamer that the night was cloudy, drizzle, and foggy, but clear on the water. The plaintiff said the tide was very slight and the defendant said it was N.E. with moderate force. The plaintiff said the steamer was first seen when the junk was steering about S.W. with moderate speed. The defendant said their course was E. by N. and their speed about 11 knots. As to the lights plaintiff said he carried two, one on the foremast and one on the mainmast. The steamer said she carried the regulation lights, that was not disputed, and she had no dispute whether the junk carried lights or not. The junk said she first caught sight of the steamer when three miles away and right ahead. The steamer said she saw the junk about a quarter of a mile away and right ahead. The steamer also said the junk was bearing about a point on her port bow. The question of the state of the weather was here a material one. The junk said she first saw the steamer's light of steamer only at first. The statement on behalf of the steamer was that the junk had no lights whatever. The junk says the red light of the steamer was seen before the collision and the steamer said that, a short time before the collision, someone ran along the junk's deck with a lantern. The junk says she tried to avoid a collision by porting her helm, by burning paper and by shouting out to the steamer. The steamer said that her helm was put hard astern and that she would have passed clear of her but the junk put her helm to starboard; then the steamer went full speed astern and her helm was steady. The collision then took place and the junk alleged that the fault laid with the steamer in being about a proper look-out and in neglecting to port her helm. The steamer alleged that no watch was kept on the junk, that she had no lights and that she improperly ported her helm and altered her course when the vessels were close together and thereby caused the collision. On the 24th July the junk left a port a little to the west of Swatow, bound here with a cargo of porcelain and miscellaneous goods. The owner Mak To was unable to be on board owing to being unwell. Mak Lun Son and the steamer were in charge. The junk had put into Swatow and after passing Che Tung Point she struck her course in the direction of Pedro Blanco. They saw a steamer's white light three miles off and right ahead. The junk ported her helm and turned in towards the land, the coast of China being on their starboard hand. As soon as they did so they brought the steamer's red light into range. The wind at the time was falling light and the junk made little or no way. The steamer advancing on her course appeared to be making straight for them. The people on the junk burnt lights and shouted to the steamer. But the steamer came straight on without apparently altering her course, and struck the junk on her port quarter, near the raised part of the stern, with the port bow. The junk was almost cut in two and became a total loss and sank. The steamer picked up the people who were on board. Counsel's contention was that the steamer was clearly in the wrong; the wind was comparatively light and she sighted the junk only a quarter of a mile off, and lights or no lights it is a proper look-out had been kept on the steamer, they would have sighted the junk long before and it was their absolute duty to keep out of the way of sailing vessels. Instead of trying to keep out of the way of the slow sailing junk they had adopted the wrong course in starboarding and attempting to pass on the starboard side of the junk when they should have ported and got across the line of the junk and got out of her way entirely. Considering the speed the vessels were going a small turning would have brought the steamer clear of the junk. The regulations required steamers to keep clear of sailing vessels and it was at the discretion of a steamer's officer which course to take as best avoiding a collision. Counsel spoke at length in support of his case and said that if the steamer had gone to starboard she

would have cleared the junk's course in the quickest possible way. Mr. Francis asked before calling evidence, that Capt. Roach should be out of court as he was an interested party. Mr. Slade argued that he was not. His Lordship said he thought it better he should be out of court unless counsel wished particularly to question him. Mr. Slade agreed with His Lordship and the Captain left the Court. Mak Tung Lun, who was in charge of the junk was then examined at length as to the circumstances of the collision and he was closely cross-examined by Mr. Slade. Two other witnesses from the junk were examined and the case was adjourned till 10.30 a.m. to-morrow.

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by the steamer *Taiyuan*:—

Mount Macdonald,

7th February, 1898.

I have the honour to report having cut at Reef at depth of 320 ft. in the Queen Mine distant from the shaft 12 feet west having a slight easterly underlay. I may here state that at 207 ft. level the Reef has a strong westerly underlay as had also the main level where passed through in sinking below the 205 ft. level. The change may be regarded as a good indication, seeing the road shows of stone near the surface on the Grant Queen Mines had an Easterly underlay.

I can give no definite information as to the size and quality of the Reef beyond the fact that it is to all appearances a solid and well defined lode. We have broken into it a distance of 15 feet and no sign of being through it. It is highly mineralized but no gold visible yet but from the quality of the mineral it is to be expected we will get through it. In North and South of the Reef, I may here state that the striking of this Reef at the depth stated definitely settles the question re the existence of a reef and formation as all the reefs worked in the Grant Mine failed out before reaching the bottom tunnel and now by driving south from our present level we ought to cut the reef and formation of all reefs or shales worked near the surface.

New Balmoral Mine one party of tribulators have a small parcel of stone carted to the battery ready for treatment and another party are prospecting on their own account on terms highly satisfactory to the Coy.

Contractors for re-erection of battery making fair progress there being a lot more work to do than they at first anticipated but it will be a first class job when completed.

OLIVER'S FREEHOLD MINES, LTD.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Taiyuan*:—

Mount Macdonald,

7th February, 1898.

Eureka Mine—Since last report have driven through the reef at the 200 feet level. Total width of reef 8 feet between two good walls and showing gold throughout, consider the prospect at this level equal to in fact better than at the 200 feet level there being more clean stone at the bottom and the gold is coarser.

Slopes above the Nos. 1 and 2 levels yielding good average ore as required for the battery, pushing on the drives North and South at the 150 feet or No. 1 level, wherever men can be spared from the slopes. Mines throughout in first class order with an unlimited amount of ore in sight.

Battery:—Owing to an unforeseen and unprecedented accident to one of the Watson and Denny Pans and having to put new segments in the average, we did not get through near the average quantity of stone, everything has been remedied and the fall on Head and Pans are now in full work, and during the coming fortnight a fair average of stone will be taken from every part of the mine and we hope to get through at least 400 tons.

Have a men engaged sinking the Eureka B. Shaft making good progress on other work being done at present.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The following telegrams from our Sydney exchanges were "crowded out" of last night's issue:—

BRIENNAH, February 4th.

It is understood that considerable activity is being shown in connection with many of the goldfields of the colony, and several Southern people, representing syndicates, are taking up areas.

It is considered as not likely that the duty collected on opium recently seized from Chinese by police will be refunded.

The gold returns of the colony for the past month show an increased yield of 526 ounces, as compared with January, 1897.

February 6th.

The railway earnings for the month of January, compared with the corresponding month of 1897, show a decrease of £5070, the only lines showing an increase being the Central and the Northern, with £639 and £880 respectively.

LONDON, February 10th.

The proposed sailing match between Haines and Wray will take place on the Thames on the 2nd March.

ADLAIDE, February 11th.

Intense excitement was aroused in Sydney upon a rumour spreading to the effect that war had been declared between Russia and England. The rumour was afterwards officially denied.

Terrific distress prevails in Russia, amongst the peasantry, caused by the almost total failure of last year's harvest.

The death rate has been greatly increased in Victoria through the fearful heat that has of late prevailed in that colony. The temperature has now fallen considerably.

February 11th.

Victoria has defeated South Australia by 25 runs in the final match for the Sheffield Shield, and is now the holder of the shield for 1898. The drought has now generally broken up. Fearfully heavy weather has been experienced in N.S.W.

The shipping in Sydney harbour was damaged by a storm, which passed over the colony, and much damage was also done inland. Twenty-seven inches of rain fell at Adelaide.

The catamaran dam on the Meehan River has been almost totally destroyed.

The brig *Amoy* was wrecked near Bulli, and her crew of eight drowned.

NOT A N D A .

CALENDAR.

MARCH.

Metereological means based on ten years' observations to 1893.

Barometer 30.059
Thermometer 84.0
Humidity 84.0
Rainfall 4.08

TO-DAY.

On date at On date at

Barometer 30.08 29.96
Thermometer 85 84
Humidity 75 80
Rainfall 0.0

TO-DAY.

Wednesday, 2nd March, 1898

Chinese—10th of 2nd moon of 24th year of Kwong-si.

Jewish—8th Adar, 5658.

Mohammedan—8th Shawwal, 1316.

Sun—Rises 6hr. 18min.

Sets 5hr. 48min.

High water—Morning 8hr. 10min.

Afternoon 2hr. 10min.

Low water—Morning 1hr. 10min.

Afternoon 12hr. 10min.

No inferior high or low water.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1647—First Dutch Embassy left China.

1791—John Wesley died.

1841—Whampoa Island battery carried.

1844—Death of Czar Nicholas of Russia.

1877—The *s.s. Hinglong* lost.

1882—Attempted assassination of the Queen.

1886—The *s.s. Hunter* lost on the Pescadore.

1897—Loss of the Dutch liner *Utrecht* off Ushant.

TO-MORROW.

Thursday, 3rd March, 1898.

Chinese—11th of 2nd moon of 24th year of Kwong-si.

Jewish—9th Adar, 5658.

Mohammedan—8th Shawwal, 1316.

Sun—Rises 6hr. 11min.

Sets 5hr. 41min.

High water—Morning 8hr. 11min.

Afternoon 2hr. 11min.

Low water—Morning 1hr. 11min.

Afternoon 12hr. 11min.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1841—Lipsitz (Howqua's Folly) taken by the British.

1851—Emancipation of the serfs by Czar Alexander of Russia.

1877—Great fire at Fouchow.

1890—Loss of the *s.s. Yushima Maru*, near Hakodate, Japan.

1894—Mr. Gladstone resigned the Premiership.

1896—Outbreak of cattle plague in Hongkong.

MEMORANDA.

TO-MORROW, 3rd March.

English mail due.

11 a.m.—American mail closes.

Noon.—*Pera* leaves for San Francisco.

FRIDAY, 4th March.

America mail due.

SATURDAY, 5th March.

11 a.m.—English mail closes.

Noon.—*Cornwall* leaves for Europe.

Noon.—Meeting of Humphreys & Estate and Finance Company.

9 p.m.—Opening night of the Brough Opera Company at Theatre Royal.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILED DUE:

English (*Thames*) to-morrow.

American (*Coptic*) 5th inst.

German (*Amoy*) 9th inst.

American (*City of Rio de Janeiro*) 12th inst.

THE O. & S. S. Co.'s steamer *Doric*, with mails, etc., which left hence February 3rd for San Francisco via Amoy, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea and Yokohama, arrived at her destination on the 28th inst.

SHIPPING RETURNS.

From 5 p.m. yesterday to 5 p.m. to-day.

ARRIVALS.

Courier Steamer, from Singapore.

Fathun " " New York

Sabine Richmond " " Shanghai

Glenagarry " " Moji

Kaitia " " Yokohama

Quarta " " Bangkok

Wistur " " Amoy

Aggregating 14,235 tons register.

DEPARTURES.

Kong Beng Steamer, for Saigon

Chunshin " " Saigon

Sunatraya " " London

Sunatraya " " Saigon

Smilgar " " Yokohama

Ozumo " " Macassar

Hunan " " Canton

Aggregating 9,941 tons register.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.

Kowloon Dock

Martha " " "

Cosmopol " " "

Burnham " " "

Progress " " "

Empress of Japan " " "

West York " " Cosmopolian

Olympia " " "

OUTWARD—28th January—*Gisla*, *Iston*, *Mithras*, *Amoy*, *Trist*, 31st January—*Ocean*, *Enryga*, *Bernfield*, 1st February—*Alta*, *Creda*, 4th Feb.—*Garda*, *Bavotell*, *Sunda*, 8th February—*Malacca*, *Honolulu*, 11th February—*Nida*, *Melana*, *Altan*, *Glancu*, *Lalena*, 15th February—*Bayern*, *Pictan*, *Ross Castle*, 18th February—*Talamon*, *Momothaktra*, *Oolong*, *Adalasia*, *Avada*, *Dilla*, *Manila*, 22nd Feb.—*Binglo*, *Bowling*, *St. Mary*, *Wally*, 25th Feb.—*Quinn*, *Olga*, *Queen Margaret*, 1st March—*Postidon*, *Andron*, *Camda*, *St. Andrews*.

HONGKONG, 2nd February—*Franklin*, 25th February—*Salacia*.

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites is prescribed by Physicians all over the world. It is a remarkable remedy for Consumption, *Scrophula*, and wasting diseases, and very palatable. Read the following:—"I have much pleasure in stating that I have tried Scott's Emulsion in a case of impoverished blood, with scrophulous disease, and found it to be a very efficient preparation. It was taken without the least difficulty."—A. TAMPY, PRACTICAL, 2nd, Lombard Park, Stoke Newington, N. Any Chemist can supply it. Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Empire of China—Watkins & Co., Hongkong.—(Advt.)

IN CASE OF FIRE.

Your house takes fire. What burns first? The furniture, doors, shelves, floors, panelling, and other wood-work. If it is a stone or brick house the walls will probably remain standing—a melancholy sight. Were not this a principle of universal application Mr. Meddings would never have compared himself to a skeleton, as he does in the letter to which your attention is now invited.

"In the autumn of 1891," he says, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. My ordinary energy appeared to have gone out of me. I always felt tired and languid, and couldn't account for it. Nothing seemed to rest me. I was as tired in morning as when I went to bed. I had a bad taste in the mouth, my appetite was poor, and after meals I had a pain at my chest and left side.

"I was in this condition until the 14th of March, 1892, and then I had to give up work. The reason was, I was too weak to work. In fact, I was so weak that it was about as much as I could do to walk across the floor. Besides this, I had a dry, hacking cough, and at night I sweat as the bedclothes were wet. Sometimes during the day cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me.

"I lost flesh rapidly, until I was like a skeleton. My muscles seemed to be shrunken and withered. There was no feeling of warmth in me; it was as though my blood had gone cool and thin. I was too feeble and helpless to wash or dress myself, and people said I was wasting away, as though they expected to see the end of it presently.

"I consulted two doctors and they gave me medicine, but it did me no good. One day my aunt, Mrs. Benion, of Francis Street, Wallis, called, and in the course of talk she said that the medicine that did her good when she was ill was Mother Selig's Curative Syrup. Although it didn't look reasonable to believe that it could cure a case as bad as mine, nevertheless my wife got me a bottle from Mr. Selig, the chemist in Park Street, and I commenced taking it. In a few days I found myself much better, my appetite was better, and I had gained a little strength.

"To make the story short, I kept on taking the Syrup and continued to get better. As soon as I could digest my food the night sweats and the cough abated, and in a few weeks I was able to go back to my work. That is two years ago, and since then I have been in good health for which I have to thank Mother Selig's Syrup. (Signed) Arthur Thomas Meddings, 115,

